

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub 1* 1. A solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion being composed of a plurality of pixels disposed in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion and a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages comprising:

a timing pulse generator portion for generating at least more than one pulse signal from among four pulse signals which are: a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion, and

a switch circuit for switching over at least one pulse signal out of said pulse signals of more than one to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level.

2. A method for driving a solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row,

a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion and a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

in a first mode, a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion are supplied to said solid state image pickup device,

in a second mode, at least one pulse signal out of the first, the second, the third and the fourth pulse signals is changed over to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level.

3. A method for driving a solid state image pickup device being provided with a plurality of photoelectric converter portions being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row, and a plurality of charge transfer portions for transferring the charges generated in respective rows of pixels in the plurality of photoelectric converter portions, wherein

*A1 and*

in a first mode, driving pulses are supplied to all charge transfer portions, and in a second mode, driving pulses to be supplied to at least one of said plurality of charge transfer portions are switched over to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level.